

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 07638 150522Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6971

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM, CONTROLLED DISSEM

NO DISSEM ABORAD, THIS INFORMATION NOT TO BE INCLUDED
IN ANY OTHER DOCUMENT OR PUBLICATION

FOR EA, INR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, KS

SUBJECT: RAPIER AND ADVANCED CHAPARRAL

1. THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT DEPARTMENT THAT CHIEF JUSMAG IS RESPONDING IN UNRESTRICTED DEFENSE CHANNEL NOV 15 TO QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED REGARDING POSSIBLE ROK THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASE OF LOW ALTITUDE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE, I.E. RAPIER. JUSMAG MESSAGE, WHICH IS BASED ON CHIEF JUSMAG CONVERSATION WITH MND ASSISTANT MINISTER PAIK SEOK CHU, WILL INDICATE THAT WHILE ROKS STILL INVESTIGATING RAPIER THEY ARE IN FACT AWAITING OUR OWN EVALUATION OF RAPIER AND OTHER COMPETITIVE SYSTEMS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS NOW UNDERWAY. KOREANS ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CAPABILITIES OF U.S. ADVANCED CHAPARRAL MISSILE WHICH THEY ALONG WITH JUSMAG HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY REALIZED WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

2. THIS DEVELOPMENT RELIEVES THIS PROBLEM OF ITS IMMEDIACY. WE WILL CONTINUE OF COURSE TO FOLLOW IT CLOSELY IN EFFORT INSURE CHAPARRAL NOT IN SOME WAY PREEMPTED.

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